



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

FAO Chair of the Vitae Concordat Strategy Group

Monday 7 September 2020

Letter of Commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers

I, Paul Thompson, Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of the Royal College of Art, confirm our commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

The Royal College of Art (RCA) fully supports the Principles of this revised Concordat and we intend to uphold our obligations and responsibilities as a signatory.

As the RCA's research profile continues to expand through the activities of academic and research staff across its Schools and growing number of Research Centres, we are committed to providing a high-quality research environment that supports the career development of our researchers at all stages. The senior manager responsible for championing the Concordat and its principles across the RCA is Dr Emma Wakelin, Director of Research & Innovation, working with the College's Research, KE & Innovation (RKEI) Strategy Committee, which she chairs. This Committee reports to the College's Senate and its Council, and its membership includes colleagues from across the academic, research and professional service staff. From the start of the 2020/21 academic year, this Committee will be responsible for undertaking regular monitoring and an annual review of the College's progress in implementing the Concordat principles, ensuring we follow best practice in this area. The RKEI Committee will also be responsible for regularly reviewing the gap analysis of our current performance against the Concordat principles, and for developing, implementing and monitoring the associated action plan.

We agree to work collectively and engage with initiatives to address systemic challenges in progressing towards a UK research system where researchers work in healthy and supportive environments. We agree that researchers should be recognised and valued for their contributions in research and beyond, supported in their professional and career development, and equipped and empowered to succeed in their chosen careers.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Paul Thompson, Vice-Chancellor

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